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BURTON LATIMER
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

E. LLOYD WARNER, B.A., M.D., Man., D.P.H. Camb.

Annual Report of M.O.H.

Please circulate as quickly as possible.

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GETHER WITH THE

he Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector,
of Dairies and Cowsheds
For 1925.

Burton Latimer Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you for your consideration the second Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

By direction of the Ministry of Health Circular 698 (England) dated 10th December, 1925, this Report is to be in the nature of a Survey Report to include details of the measure of progress made in the public health services in the district during the preceding five years and its context is to follow as far as possible an arrangement set out in the Appendix to that circular.

In view of the fact that Burton Latimer was constituted an Urban District as late as October, 1923, the general trend of the report must needs be confined to a survey of the two years. However, wherever the necessary data are available additional information to conform with the requirements of the Ministry of Health will be included.

AREA. The area of the District is 2,756 acres.

POPULATION. 1921, 3,465 ; 1925, 3,503.

PHYSICAL FEATURES. The District lies in an undulating country. There is a clay subsoil, the surface is arable and is well-drained.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES. 1921, 760 ; 1925, 830 ; showing an increase of 70.

RATEABLE VALUE. £10,344. A penny rate produces £44.

CHIEF OCCUPATIONS. The chief occupation of the inhabitants are Boot and Shoe Manufacture, Clothing Manufacture, Ironstone Mining, and Farming. Not one of these occupations has any extraordinary effect on the health of the community and the incidence of disease appears to be very evenly distributed among them. A considerable number of women, married and unmarried,

are employed in the shoe and clothing factories, which fact does not, possibly, improve the home life ; but on the other hand does not seem to detrimentally affect their health or the health of their children. The additional income improves the standard of living and in many cases, where the husband is out of employment, the earnings of the wife to a great extent provide the necessities of life.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. Total, 53. Males, 31 ; Females, 22. These figures include one illegitimate birth.

BIRTH RATE. (Registrar-General's figures). 15·1 per 1,000 population. Such is a decrease compared to last year's figure and is lower than the average rate for England and Wales, which is 18·3.

DEATHS. Total, 44. Males, 26 ; Females, 18.

DEATH RATE. (Registrar-General's figures). 12·3 per 1,000 population. This is a considerable increase on last year's low figure of 9·2 and is 0·1 higher than the average rate for England and Wales. The average for the two years is 10·8.

An outstanding cause of death during the year was Tuberculosis, there being six deaths from this cause. An analysis of this figure will be given later on in the report. Other notable causes of death were :—

Arterio Sclerosis	...	...	...	...	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4
Cancer (Malignant Disease)	...	...	...	...	3
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	2
Violence	...	...	...	...	2

Two inquests were held.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. There were three deaths of infants under one year of age.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE. 57 per 1,000 Births. This is an increase on last year's figure, but is lower than the average rate for England and Wales, which is 75.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	2
Pemphigus Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	1
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	3
					—

TABLE I.—BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, and ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years.).	Total Deaths under One year.	Causes of Death certi- fied by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000).	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0
Burton Latimer	15.1	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.57	0.0	57	93.2	4.5	2.3

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES. HOSPITALS.

(1) TUBERCULOSIS. The Tuberculosis scheme for the District is under the direct control of the County Authorities. A Sanatorium for suitable cases is in operation at Rushden.

(2) MATERNITY. Cases that require institutional care may be sent to the Northampton and Kettering Hospitals.

(3) CHILDREN. Hospital accommodation for children is provided by the Northampton and Kettering General Hospitals. The Manfield Orthopædic Hospital situated on the outskirts of Northampton is available for special cases.

(4) FEVER. Cases of infectious disease may be sent to the Kettering and District Fever Hospital which is under the control of the Kettering and District Joint Hospital Board on which body the Local Authority is represented. An annual subscription is paid.

(5) SMALL POX. A Small Pox Hospital is provided by the Kettering and District Joint Hospital Board.

(6) GENERAL. The Northampton and Kettering General Hospitals offer adequate facilities for general cases. The inhabitants voluntarily subscribe to the hospitals through the medium of a hospital fund.

PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS. Advantage is taken of the existence in Northampton of two Maternity Homes provided by the Northampton Queen Victoria Nursing Institution.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. (a) For infectious cases. A horse-drawn ambulance is provided by the Kettering Fever Hospital.

(b) For other cases. The Order of St. John and British Red Cross Society maintain two ambulances in Kettering for non-infectious and accident cases. A local branch of the St. John Ambulance has just been re-organised.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. (a) Burton Latimer Maternity and Child Welfare Centre provided and operated by voluntary workers. A grant is received from the Ministry of Health.

(b) Day Nurseries. Nil.

(c) Dental and Eye Clinics for school children are under the direction of the County Authorities.

(d) Tuberculosis Dispensary, situated in Kettering, is provided by the County Authorities.

(e) The only provision made for Venereal cases is the clinic at the Northampton hospital.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A part-time Medical Officer of Health is employed by the Council which body defrays half of his salary, the remaining half being defrayed by the Ministry of Health through the County Council. The officer at present holding the appointment possesses the Diploma of Public Health, Cambridge, and holds a certificate of attendance and efficiency in connection with a special course of instruction for School Medical Officers given by the London Hospital. He is also Medical Officer of No. 3 District of Kettering Union and Certifying Surgeon under the Factory Acts for the district.

A whole time officer is employed as Highway Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, under the latter head are included the duties of Sanitary Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Petroleum Inspector and Inspector under the Rats and Mice Destruction Acts.

Half of his salary is defrayed by the Ministry of Health through the County Council and 50 per cent. of the proportion allocated to the position of Highway Surveyor is defrayed by the Ministry of Transport. The officer at present so employed, Mr. R. W. C. Kingsley, possesses the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate and the Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, London.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME. (a) General. A certified nurse and mid-wife resident in the district does all the general nursing, she also attends at school inspections. Her salary is mainly provided by a voluntary organisation, the Burton Latimer Nursing Association, a small portion being paid by the County Authorities. She is appointed by the Northamptonshire Nursing Association and is under the direction of the Superintendent.

(b) For Infectious Diseases. Nurses are supplied by the County Authority on the application of the District Medical Officer of Health.

MIDWIVES. A Certified Midwife is resident within the District under the circumstances previously noted. See heading "General Nursing Arrangements."

CHEMICAL WORK. Chemical Analyses and Bacteriological examination of samples of water are carried out by the Clinical Research Association, Ltd., London.

During the year 1925, two samples of water were sent for analysis, both in connection with the same well. The first sample was found to be strongly polluted with sewage matter. The drainage was re-laid and the well thoroughly cleaned out and purified. The second sample sent for analysis proved that the water was again fit for human consumption.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE. At present the only local Bye-laws in force in the District are those in connection with "New Streets

and Buildings.” Other Bye-laws which are considered necessary are at present receiving the attention of the Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT. Are fully set down in the Report of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector which follows this Report.

SCHOOLS. The Schools are under the direct supervision of the County Authority. The Statutory inspections of the school children are carried out by the School Medical Officers.

The control of infectious diseases among the school children is under the supervision of the District M.O.H. in conjunction with the School Medical Officer of the County Council.

With regard to “Housing” and the “Inspection and Supervision of Food,” I would again direct your attention to the Report of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Thirty-five cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year 1925, this number being identical with that for the year 1924. Whereas 22 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in 1924, none were notified during the year under review. No return cases have been notified.

The District has been free from Diphtheria for some years now, consequently the younger children of the community are, as a whole, unprotected against the dreaded disease; a supply of anti-toxin is kept and is immediately available should it be required. The Schick test has not been used.

During the first quarter of 1925 a serious epidemic of measles occurred among the children of the Infant Schools and those below school age. It was considered advisable to close the schools affected for a period to assist in the control of the epidemic; however, no material good resulted and the procedure will not be repeated for this disease. Two deaths were registered as due to measles, one case being 12 months of age and the other two years. In both cases Pneumonia set in while the rash was at its height.

Owing to the presence of Small Pox in Districts in close proximity to Burton Latimer it was considered advisable to make the disease, Chicken Pox compulsorily notifiable. Twenty-one cases of Chicken Pox were notified during the year.

SMALL POX. Owing, perhaps, to very good fortune no cases of Small Pox occurred in the District although a considerable number were reported in districts a few miles distant. Eight direct contacts were notified to the M.O.H. and were kept under observation; all but one case submitted to vaccination or re-vaccination, the operations being performed by the Public Vaccinator and M.O.H. in his capacity as panel doctor. It is to be regretted that a very small proportion of the inhabitants are

vaccinated and that the number of infants who are so protected each year is steadily declining.

INFLUENZA. Each year has brought its epidemic of influenza, but the disease has appeared in a milder form. Two deaths were registered as due to this disease during both the years 1924 and 1925.

PNEUMONIA. Five cases of Pneumonia were notified in 1924 and eight cases in 1925.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA. Two cases of this disease, both fatal, were notified in 1924 and one in 1925. One case that was not recognised and consequently not notified occurred in 1925, and after a period of six months the child is showing definite after effects.

No cases of Puerperal Fever or Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified.

Arrangements are made with the Northampton Hospital for the examination of all Bacteriological and Pathological specimens. Owing to the fact that the mail leaves Burton Latimer morning and evening only and the evening mail is collected too late for a specimen to reach Northampton the same day a period of forty-eight hours usually elapses before advice is received, per telephone, as to whether or not a throat swab is positive. This delay is serious and means that in a case of suspected Diphtheria the decision to give anti-toxin must rest on clinical signs alone, as a two days delay in giving the serum treatment would jeopardize the child's life.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925.

Age-Periods.		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
35	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	1	1	1	...	5	...	...	1

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1925.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Percentage of Removals.	Total Deaths.		
	At Ages—Years.														
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.													
		Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 3 years.	3 and under 4 years.	4 and under 5 years.	5 and under 10 yrs.	10 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 65 yrs.				65 and upwards	
Diphtheria
Scarlet Fever
Erysipelas
Pneumonia
Enteric (Paratyphoid)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Other than Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Puerperal Fever
Chicken Pox
Encephalitis Lethargica
Totals	35	0	0	1	10	12	0	1	10	1	...	...	...	...	4

Of the new cases notified one was a visitor.

The one death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis was a case of Tubercular Meningitis.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre established in 1917 under the direction of a Committee of Ladies is in active operation.

The Centre is a voluntary organisation and except for a grant from the Ministry of Health is self-supporting. It is more or less intimately connected with the Northamptonshire Nursing Association. A doctor is in attendance and sessions are held fortnightly. A health visitor attends the Centre regularly.

No treatment is given at the Centre, the work being confined to short talks or lectures on health subjects, observation of progress of infants, supplying of milk, etc., in necessitous cases, and consultations.

Yearly there is an increase in the attendances of mothers and infants and definite benefit to the health of the community results. This is evident from the fact that the incidence of Diarrhoea and Enteritis among the infants of the district is negligible and the mortality rate from these diseases is nil.

The following figures will be of interest :—

	1925	1922
Number of Sessions	22	—
Number of attendances of Doctor	15	—
Total attendance of Mothers	669	222
Total attendance of Infants	765	248
Total attendance of expectant Mothers	4	—
Average number of infants attending per session	35	—

STAFF. Mr. R. W. C. Kingsley, the Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector continues to carry out his duties in an eminently satisfactory manner.

In closing, I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for the courtesy and support extended to me during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

E. LLOYD WARNER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Burton Latimer Urban District Council.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Report of Sanitary Inspector

AND

Surveyor for 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Burton Latimer Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my second Annual Report dealing with the Sanitary Work, etc., in the Urban District of Burton Latimer for the year ending 31st December, 1925. By command of the Ministry of Health the Report for this period is to be a "Survey Report" and will, therefore, contain detailed information which it is not customary to include every year.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS.

Total number, 395. Nature :—

(1) After Infectious diseases	...	...	31
(2) Upon complaints	...	...	23
(3) For detection of nuisances	...	...	47
(4) Re-inspections	...	...	53
(5) New houses before occupation	...	...	9
(6) Outworkers	...	...	205
(7) Workshops	...	...	18
(8) Milkshops and Dairies	...	...	9

NOTICES.

Statutory	...	...	0
Informal (including letters)	...	...	14

RESULT OF SERVICE.

Nuisances were abated. No legal proceedings were required. In the case of the Statutory notice issued during 1924, this nuisance was eventually settled without taking proceedings.

BAKEHOUSES, FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

All Workshops and Bakehouses were inspected and nuisances remedied as tabulated below :—

Inspections ...	...	...	...	...	18
Written notices ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Prosecutions ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Defects found ...	...	...	...	...	5
Defects remedied ...	...	...	...	...	5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In all cases of Infectious diseases the rooms were thoroughly disinfected after removal of the patient to Hospital, or in cases which were nursed at home, after the patient's recovery.

In addition one house complete and one room were disinfected after fatal cases of consumption, two rooms in the same house after a fatal case of cancer, and one complete house which was infested with bugs.

In three cases compensation was paid for bedding destroyed.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Smoke tests on drains and drains found defective ...	...	...	...	...	1
New closet pans ...	...	...	...	...	4
Privies converted to W.C.'s ...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective gullies ...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains cleared ...	...	...	...	...	14
Offensive accumulations removed ...	...	...	...	...	4
Wells and Pumps repaired ...	...	...	...	...	2
Roofs repaired ...	...	...	...	...	8
Animals improperly kept ...	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding... ...	...	...	...	...	0
Samples of water for analysis ...	...	...	...	...	2
House drains re-layed ...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective wells ...	...	...	...	...	1
Other nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	2

No legal proceedings were taken, preliminary notices in all cases proving sufficient.

SANITARY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

PLANS AND BUILDINGS.

Houses.	New Buildings. Factories.	Alterations & Additions.	Drainage.	Unclassified.	Total.
28	1	10	2	6	42

During the year certificates were issued in respect of twenty subsidy houses under the Housing (1923) Act for which a lump sum grant of £100 is made in each case.

One temporary bungalow was erected and will be dismantled and removed as soon as the permanent house is ready for occupation.

Forty-three water tests were carried out on new drains in connection with the above works.

SEWAGE FARM.

The plant at the Sewage Farm is all in order. The filters are working satisfactorily and although they have practically no rest the effluent is good.

The outflow brook was thoroughly cleared and cleaned out, this was fortunate in view of the heavy floods experienced during the winter.

The grass keeping has been let for a period of three years at an annual rental of £20. The lessee has the option of mowing it once during that period. The acreage of crops was as follows :—

Potatoes.	(King Edward) ...	...	2½ acres.
Do.	(Early Eclipse) ...	...	1 acre.
Greens	... ..	...	½ acre.

The sale of crops realised a total of £127 14s. 9d. gross and £118 10s. 0d. nett, against £136 5s. 0d. gross for the previous year.

The Early Eclipse potatoes proved a complete failure on account of the unfavourable season.

The small settling tanks were cleaned out twice during the year.

The town sewers were regularly inspected and flushed and minor repairs and blockages were attended to as was found necessary.

As usual, the foot planks running from the allotments across the brook to the Sewage Farm were taken up from December 25th to 27th inclusive, to prevent the establishment of a right-of-way.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

There are four retailers licensed under the Petroleum Acts. The premises were examined and found in order.

WATER.

The Council have their own waterworks situated in the Parish of Weekley. This water is available throughout the whole of the town area and for a great part of the outlying districts.

The supply is constant with the exception of the necessity of regulating the consumption in case of failure of the supply at the waterworks well.

The Council have an arrangement with the Kettering Urban District Council whose mains are directly connected to ours for a supply of water in case of shortage.

The average weekly consumption of water in the District is 700,000 gallons. This District for water includes the parishes of Weekley, Warkton, and Barton Seagrave, as well as the urban district of Burton Latimer.

The number of dwelling houses in the District having the town supply is 465 and the proportion of the population so supplied works out at approximately 56 per cent.

The water is obtained by means of a collecting area with series of headers leading into a main well.

There is no possibility of contamination nor has the water any trace of plumbo-solvent action.

In addition to the Council's water supply there are many houses in the district with their own private wells; these wells are under the constant supervision of the Sanitary Inspector with regard to the possibility of contamination.

There is now only one public pump in Burton Latimer, this is situated in Church Street and is known as "Stockwell Pump." It has an unlimited supply of excellent water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is a complete system of sewers (on the combined system) throughout the town area.

At the sewage farm the sewage runs alternately into two large settling tanks from which the liquid flows to two filter beds which are fed by means of revolving spray distributors. These new filter beds and two new septic tanks were installed shortly before we obtained Urban rights.

It is impossible, at any time of the year, to rest either of these filter beds for any length of time, consequently they are not yielding the maximum efficiency.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year under review the few remaining earth closets and privies were converted to the water carriage system. There are now earth closets only in the outlying districts where there are no sewers. All of these are of the bucket type, thereby necessitating frequent emptying. They are emptied by the householders themselves and in all cases all these houses have large plots of ground.

SCAVENGING.

The removal and disposal of house refuse in the district has previously always been let out on contract for a period of one year at a time; recently this system has not proved satisfactory and the Council have now decided to do their own scavenging with a properly equipped cart. This new arrangement will commence on April 1st, 1926.

There are no fixed receptacles in the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

This item has been dealt with earlier in the Report.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Only one case of smoke nuisance required to be dealt with ; this was abated without trouble and is not likely to recur. This district is not troubled with smoke nuisance as it is known in some districts.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS. The shortage of houses in the District is acutely felt, overcrowding is not excessive but there is a great insufficiency of houses to accommodate those working in the factories, thereby necessitating many of them journeying backwards and forwards from surrounding places.

A local Co-operative Society has recently laid out a building estate for 54 houses. This same Society has ten houses in course of erection on the estate under the Housing (1923) Act. Three of these houses were completed and occupied during the year under review.

To encourage private enterprise the Council raised the lump sum grant of £75 to £100 for each subsidy house ; this procedure appears to have stimulated building by private enterprise for during the year there were twenty subsidy houses erected or in course of erection as against only five the previous year.

OVERCROWDING. As mentioned above, overcrowding is not excessive, but in view of the shortage of houses throughout the whole neighbourhood it is difficult to know how to deal with this nuisance. In 1924 one severe case was successfully dealt with.

FITNESS OF HOUSES. On the whole the standard of housing in the area might be considered fair. In the older houses dampness is prevalent, due, no doubt, in most cases, to the absence of proper dampcourses and many of these houses have poor roofs. It is becoming increasingly difficult for owners to keep thatched roofs in good order, due, partly to the almost impossibility of procuring good material and partly to the shortage of skilled thatchers.

In all cases owners were ready and willing to carry out the repairs required.

In two isolated cases tenants were responsible for filthy and insanitary conditions.

WATER SUPPLY. The town water supply is reported on earlier. In all cases of wells the supply is very good as is also closet accommodation generally. In all cases the house refuse is removed by a " Scavenger " under contract with the Council. (*Vide* heading " Scavenging " earlier.)

UNHEALTHY AREAS. This again scarcely affects our district. No complaints were received or reported.

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS. With regard to any action taken by the Council to provide information regarding the proper

use of household fittings and the disposal of household refuse by burning, a series of leaflets was drawn up by the Sanitary Inspector during the summer of 1924 and issued to all the school children.

The Council have instructed the Sanitary Inspector to issue a similar revised series during 1926.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

The approximate number of houses in the district is 823.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—							
(1) By Local Authority	...	...					Nil
(2) By other bodies or persons	...						8
(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under P.H.A.	...	...	...				37
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...				2
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...		14
(4) Remedy of defects without service of formal notices and houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
(5) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—							
(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...					10
(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—							
(1) By Owners	...	...	...	...			10
(2) By Local Authority in lieu of Owners							0

MILK SUPPLY.

All the Milk Shops and Dairies in the District have been regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and nuisances, where found, were abated without trouble.

The purity of the milk supply is controlled by the Joint Dairies and Cowsheds Committee which operates in this District. (*Vide* Veterinary Inspector's Annual Report at end).

MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat Inspection is now carried out in a regular and systematic manner ; all the meat in the local slaughter houses is examined at the time of slaughter.

As all the meat slaughtered within the district is consumed locally it has not been considered necessary to mark the meat under the P. H. (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Condemned meat is disposed of either by burying in lime at our Sewage Farm or by burning in the retort house of the local Gasworks.

There are three licensed slaughter houses in the town. All were inspected during the year and found to be in order. One is, at present, seldom used.

During the year 1925, 411 lbs. of pork and offal, 750 lbs. of beef and offal, and 10 lbs. of mutton were condemned and destroyed.

I made 370 visits for the inspection of meat.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for the consideration and support extended to me during the past year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

R. W. C. KINGSLEY, A.R.San.,I.,

Highway Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

JOINT COMMITTEE re DAIRIES and COWSHEDS

Veterinary Inspector's Annual Report.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report that during the year ended 31st December, 1925, I have made inspections and re-inspections of premises in the occupation of registered cowkeepers, to the number of 316, and of all cows contributing to the public milk supply to the number of 3685.

Depending on the sanitary conditions met with, and the health of the milk producing cows, the results are classified under three headings, viz., Classes A, B and C.

Class A are those in which the general sanitary conditions have been found to be satisfactory and the health of the cows normal.

Class B are those in which some minor defects have been found, either as regards the sanitary state of the sheds or the health of the animals.

Class C are those in which sanitation is unsatisfactory or bad, or in which cows have been found to be giving milk likely to be harmful to consumers.

Classified in this way the results are as follows :—

Class A	185	sheds	containing	2403	cows.
„ B	114	„	„	1196	„
„ C	17	„	„	86	„
Total		316		3685	

In regard to the cases in Class C, the main objectionable features were :—unsatisfactory drainage, dirty and ill-kept sheds, the use of insufficient litter, accumulations of manure, and neglect of limewashing.

In all these cases a notice to terminate the nuisance was served on the occupier followed by a further visit to see that the notice had been complied with.

Since my last annual report the Tuberculosis Order (1925), which was suspended during the war, has been reintroduced, and by its provisions notification of certain forms or degrees of Tuberculosis amongst bovine animals has been made compulsory.

The specified categories of Tuberculosis which may be dealt with under the Order are three in number, viz. :—

1. Tuberculous emaciation.
2. Tubercular diseases of the udder, or a cow giving tubercular milk.
3. Chronic cough and other definite signs of Tuberculosis.

From this it will be seen that the Order aims only at the destruction of the more pronounced or advanced forms of Tuberculosis and takes no cognizance of any phase of the disease unless it comes under one of the three headings.

All bovine animals which are found to be so affected are valued and slaughtered, some compensation being payable to the owner, the amount of which depends on the extent of the disease as revealed post mortem. The Order came into operation on 1st September last, and within the area of the Joint Committee fourteen dairy cows or heifers have been slaughtered as suffering from one or other of the specified forms of the disease.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

TREVOR F. SPENCER, M.R.C.V.S.

February, 1926.

